

“CELEBRATION”

*“I’m delighted to receive funding from Culture Liverpool and UK Shared Prosperity enabling me to create and exhibit this new sculpture to mark Black History Month. My new recycled paper sculpture titled ‘**Celebration**’ features a life size figure wearing a robe adorned with a roll call of names acknowledging just some of the many black people who have contributed so much to Liverpool, from Abell the first recorded black citizen, through to modern day community leaders. The artwork is my homage to Liverpool’s black community.”*

Faith Bebbington

“CELEBRATION” BY FAITH BEBBINGTON

ABELL / ERIC LYNCH / JOHN CONTEH / DOROTHY KUYA / GLORIA HYATT / JENNIFER JOHN / EMMA CLARKE / JOHN ARCHER / CHARLES WOOTTON / MADELINE HENEGHAN / LAURENCE WESTGAPH / LEVI TAFARI / JOANNE ANDERSON / KATARINA JOHNSON THOMPSON / GEE WALKER / CLAIRE DOVE / MICHELLE CHARTERS /

ABELL (Died 1717)

First black citizen of Liverpool. A monument recognising Liverpool’s first black citizen at Liverpool Parish Church commemorates the life of the first recorded black resident of Liverpool. Research by Liverpool historian Laurence Westgaph revealed the details of a man known only as Abell, who lived in the city more than 300 years ago. Abell was buried in the churchyard of St Nicholas’ Church (the Parish Church), on October 1, 1717.

<https://www.cultureliverpool.co.uk/news/liverpool-commemorates-the-citys-first-black-citizen/>

ERIC LYNCH (1932 -2021)

Eric Scott Lynch a local Black historian, trade unionist and Black rights activist and creator of the Slavery History Tour. Eric was awarded the Citizen of Honour. He was one of the people instrumental in establishing the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool's Royal Albert Dock and the Slavery Remembrance day celebrations each August.

<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/slavery-histories/eric-scott-lynch>

JOHN CONTEH MBE

Born in Toxteth in 1951. The son of a West African father and a mother of Irish descent, John Conteh came to fame in the 1970s and 1980s as a boxing champion and celebrity. From 1974 to 1978 he held the World Boxing Council (WBC) light heavyweight title as well as European, British and Commonwealth titles. <https://mixedmuseum.org.uk/amri-exhibition/john-conteh/>

DOROTHY KUYA (1933 - 2013)

Leading British communist and human rights activist from Liverpool, the co-founder of Teachers Against Racism, and the general secretary of the National Assembly of Women (NAW). She was a life-long member of the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB), and was most famous for being Liverpool's first community relations officer, and for leading a successful campaign to establish Liverpool's International Slavery Museum.

<https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/blog/Dorothy-Kuya>

GLORIA HYATT MBE

Liverpool's 1st Black Head Teacher. She set up the 1st Independent school and Academy in the UK, with a multi-cultural, multi-racial student and work force population. It was awarded an outstanding grade by HMI. The first school with adult learners' services in the UK, (Elimu Academy) that had multiple business arms. It was a Charity, Limited Company and Extended School service for adults and children. a Non-Executive Director, Corporate & Executive Coach, Consultant, Teacher & Trainer.

<https://www.teachconsultancy.com/>

JENNIFER JOHN

Creating music for social change. Jennifer John is a composer, singer/songwriter, music mentor, lecturer, and vocal coach. Chair of the Black Music Action Group building a robust and sustainable infrastructure for Black Music across the Liverpool City Region. <https://www.jenniferjohnmusic.com/about>

EMMA CLARKE (1876 - 1905)

Born in Bootle, was a British footballer, considered to be the first known black women's footballer in Britain.

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2017/mar/28/britains-first-black-female-footballer-emma-clarke-1890s-play>

JOHN ARCHER (1863-1932)

Born in Liverpool, John Archer became the first British-born black mayor of anywhere in the UK when he became Mayor of Battersea in 1913. <https://www.blackheroesfoundation.org/people/john-richard-archer/>

CHARLES WOOTTON (1895-1919)

A sailor who died after he was pursued by a white mob in one of the UK's worst outbreaks of racist violence. Buried in a paupers grave, now has a permanent headstone at Anfield Cemetery after fundraising by the Liverpool Black History Research Group in collaboration with the Liverpool Enslaved Memorial Project. They wanted to recognise Charles Wotten but also the adult education centre named after him in Liverpool 8 which became a hub for Liverpool's black community. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-65813499>

MADELINE HENEGHAN

Co-Director OF Writing on the Wall. She was WoW's first full-time Festival Director in 2006 Liverpool's longest-running writing and literary organisation and festival. Prior to WoW Madeline was Action Plan Coordinator for Liverpool's Black and Racial Minority Network and an Equalities Consultant. Madeline has written and published, with Emy Onuara, a book on the Great War to Race Riots Creative Heritage Project. <https://writingonthewall.org.uk/about/staff/>

LAURENCE WESTGAPH

Laurence Westgaph is an independent researcher, community historian, writer, broadcaster and tour guide. His interest is in Liverpool's role in the slave trade and how its legacies have benefited the city and impacted its built environment, civic, cultural, and educational institutions. Laurence is currently leading on the Liverpool Enslaved Memorial Project, established to create a permanent monument in the city to commemorate the enslaved people who lived, died, and were buried here during the slave trade period.

<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/slavery-histories/about-slavery-histories><https://www.instagram.com/westgaph/>

LEVI TAFARI

Levi Tafari is a crucial, rhythmic, poetic, consciousness raiser and urban griot. Levi was born and raised in the city of Liverpool by his Jamaican parents. He has had four collections of poetry published, and his plays performed at the Unity, Everyman and Playhouse Theatres in Liverpool. His musical projects include working with Ghanaian drum and dance ensemble Delado, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and his own reggae fusion band, Ministry of Love. Awarded the Citizen of Honour for the City of Liverpool in 2023. <https://www.levitafari.net/>

JOANNE ANDERSON

Mayor of Liverpool May 2021 - 2023, elected after serving as a councillor for two years and Liverpool's first female Mayor and the first black woman to be directly elected as a Mayor in the UK.

<https://uk.linkedin.com/in/joanne-anderson-61893438>

KATARINA JOHNSON THOMPSON

Britain's best multi-eventer, KJT is known for her excellence both on the track and in the field. KJT is a three-time Olympian, two-time Commonwealth Champion, World Champion, World Indoor Champion, and two-time European Indoor Champion. In conjunction with the LFC Foundation and some of KJT's key partners, the KJT Academy will support aspiring athletes from the North West of England aged between 16 and 21 years old. <https://www.k-j-t.com/>

DR GEE WALKER MBE

The mother of teenager Anthony Walker. The Anthony Walker Foundation was established in 2006 after the racially motivated murder of Anthony in Huyton. Anthony's family and friends did not want his murder to be another statistic and wanted his name to live on with a positive, lasting legacy. She was awarded the Member of the Order of the British Empire medal for services to diversity and racial injustice for her work as founder and patron of The Anthony Walker Foundation.

<https://anthonywalkerfoundation.com>

CLAIRE DOVE OBE

Claire DOVE has been a key player in the social enterprise movement since the early 1980s. SHE co-founded the Women's Technology and Education Centre (WTEC) to provide training for low paid and unemployed women. Today the centre, now Blackburne House, provides excellent educational opportunities for women alongside its award-winning School for Social Entrepreneurship and successful social enterprises. Retired as CEO there in 2020 she is now Crown Representative for the VCSE sector.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/people/claire-dove> <https://www.blackburnehouse.co.uk/>

MICHELLE CHARTERS

Chief Executive Officer OF The Kuumba Imani Millennium Centre (KIMC) a registered charity established in April 2000. The building was conceived and developed by Liverpool Black Sisters (LBS) an organisation that was set up in the early 1980's to tackle inequalities for women and the local community of Liverpool 8 (Toxteth).

KIMC's mission is to provide a community resource that supports and encourages the economic development, regeneration and sustainability of the local and wider diverse communities of Liverpool and Merseyside. Michelle is also a Trustee of National Museums Liverpool.

<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/stories/basement-board>



Faith Bebbington Instagram [@fbebbington](https://www.instagram.com/fbebbington) www.faithbebbington.co.uk